

GAVINTON, FOGO & POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at Gavinton Church Hall on Monday 27 November 2006 at 7pm

1. Present were: Mrs C Allman, Mrs M Bishop, Mrs B Darling (Chair), Mr P Gibbens, Mr I Gill, Mrs J O'Kane (minutes secretary), Mr D Patterson, Mrs F Renton, Mr M Rooke, Mrs J Seed (from item 6), Mrs C Taylor, Mr B Weir, Mr N Whyte. Also in attendance were Cllr. M McCrave, 4 members of the public and PC Glass of Lothian & Borders Police (for Items 2 and 3 only).
2. Police input: nothing to report
3. Traffic counter in Gavinton re speeding: during one week in October the number of cars passing through the village averaged 220 – 230 at an average speed of 29.9mph, with 85% travelling under 37mph, 15% at over 37mph. PC Glass will raise this with the traffic division.
4. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 9 October 2006 were approved.
5. Matters arising:
 - Core paths: minutes of meeting not received
 - Fogo footpath repair by SBLocal: this was done with larger stones and left unrolled. Mrs Darling to discuss with SBLocal.
 - Request to RES (windfarm on Black Hill) for Fogo: no response received to letter of 27 October
 - Keep Berwickshire Tidy campaign: presentation at the Hirsell: Mrs Darling expressed thanks to all concerned
 - Recycling: conflicting advice has been received on filling bags. Cllr McCrave confirmed that they should only be put out when full, even if this is not every week.
6. Planning applications:
 - Fogo: erection of 6 dwellinghouses. The plans were on display for all to see, though some CC members had already studied them and commented. Mrs Darling invited the Fogo residents who were in attendance to speak. The main concerns about this proposed development are:
 - Location of the entrance so close to the nursery and very narrow
 - This new proposal is for bigger houses than expected
 - Increased traffic, which will be inconvenient and possibly dangerous for residents, walkers and cyclists
 - Insufficient car parking planned: 2 per house does not reflect potential car ownership of residents let alone their visitors
 - Lilac tree dating back to 1954 is threatened
 - Outwith boundaries of village
 - Septic tank run-off will be into the Blackadder; the area is now an SSSI and conservation area
 - Passing places would be required
 - Fogo is not a preferred site in the new Local Plan
 - No affordable housing planned
 - Crunklaw: internal and external alterations to form 8 dwellinghouses (LBC and FUL). There was concern that the planned passing places be introduced at the start of the project, to accommodate works traffic.
 - Maps of the CC area and SBC Interim Guidance Note were issued to members
7. Website: i) webmaster has got started ii) is being upgraded; input is required about the area, and it will link to our own website.
8. Treasurer's report: little change - £957.16 in the normal account, £417.47 in the other account
9. ASCC: Mrs Darling reported on AGM
10. Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils: current review by SBC, comments welcome. Mrs Darling reported that one meeting has been held already. She has checked and confirmed that we cannot increase the number of CC members for Polwarth for the moment, while the review is taking place.

11. Proposed dental facility at Coldstream Cottage Hospital: Mrs Darling had contacted other CCs and several volunteers came forward to take part in the discussions. No announcement made yet.
12. Threatened closure of rural Post Offices: efforts are being made to save them, but with little chance of success.
13. Training evening for CCs on roles and responsibilities, 15 Nov: attended by Mrs Darling, Mrs Renton and Mrs O'Kane. The general opinion was that the content was a little disappointing, especially considering the excellent turnout, and the sessions were rushed. It was, however, a good networking opportunity.
14. New Berwickshire High School: condition attached for footpath and cycle link to be provided along the southern boundary of the site from Clockmill to Duns Castle to Duns Mill right of way. There was some disquiet at the meeting about the halt in work at the site.
15. SBC Structure Plan alteration: stakeholder meeting, 29 November, 7pm. Mrs Darling to attend and report back
16. Correspondence received:
 - Eastern Borders Development Association: nomination for annual award by 20 November
 - SBC Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2007
 - New Ways Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony, 2 March 2007, tickets £45 or £450 for table of 10, plus VAT: it was agreed to comment on the perceived 'elitist' nature of this event which discourages community members from attending.
 - SBC Access Maintenance Grants: submit by 8 December
 - Southern Upland Partnership Newsletter No 22
 - BAGO hand tools for litter
 - Low flying, 14-16 November
 - RAF calendar 2007
 - Postwatch Scotland Issue 15
 - Tweed Matters Issue 9
17. AOCB
 - There is to be a session on community-owned windfarms at SBC on 11 December; Mrs Darling and Mrs Renton to attend
 - SB Elder Voice is having a presentation on digital TV on 1 December at Turnbull Court
 - Mrs Renton confirmed that an application will not be made to the Big Lottery Fund Breathing Places scheme
 - There has been a letter from a Gavinton resident about poor quality bus service published in the Southern Reporter: Mrs Darling to follow up
 - Mrs Bishop informed the meeting that SBC had commissioned a survey on recycling, but had not told communities, so the people doing it had met with some suspicion, especially as they did not have identification.
18. Dates of future meetings:
 - Monday 8 January 2007
 - Monday 19 February 2007
 - Monday 26 March 2007
 - Mondy 30 April 2007 (AGM)

Janet O'Kane, Minutes Secretary

Handwritten signatures and initials:
J. Darling
M. Bishop